

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/026,245

Examiner

Fred Ferris

Applicant(s)

BECKER, SCOTT T.

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 November 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 01112005.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. *Claims 1-11 have been presented for examination based on applicant's amendment filed on 1 November 2004. Claims 1-11 have now been allowed over the prior art of record.*

Response to Arguments

2. *Applicant's arguments filed on 1 November 2004 with respect to claims 1-11 have been fully considered and are persuasive.*

Regarding applicant's response to drawing objections: *Applicant's drawing changes filed on 1 November 2004 have been approved by the examiner. The objection to the drawings is withdrawn.*

Regarding applicant's response to the objection to the specification: *The examiner withdraws the objection to the specification in view of applicant's amendment to the specification filed on 1 November 2004.*

Regarding applicant's response to 112(1) rejection: *The examiner withdraws the 112(1) rejection in view of applicant's arguments, amendment to the specification, and clarification of issues relating to "word width" definition for pairs of bitlines filed on 1 November 2004.*

Regarding applicant's response to double patenting rejection: *The examiner withdraws the double patenting rejection in view of applicant's Terminal Disclaimer filed and approved on 3 December 2004.*

Regarding applicant's response to 103(a) rejection: *The examiner withdraws the 103(a) rejection in view of applicant's arguments, amendment to*

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the specification, and clarification of issues relating to flipped core cells filed on 1 November 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. *Claims 1-11 have been allowed over the prior art of record.*

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants are disclosing a memory device design of a memory core consisting of six transistor core cells having a bitline and complementary bitline where the depth of the memory is defined by the number of wordlines, and the word width is defined by the number of bitline bar pairs. This has been disclosed in the prior art of record.

While these features are individually disclosed in the prior art, the prior art of record does not meet the conditions as suggested in MPEP section 2132, namely:

*"The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an **ipsissimis verbis** test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. **In re Bond**, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990)."*

In particular, the prior art of record does not disclose the specific arrangement of elements where "a core cell (defined as six transistor cell, Fig. 3A) having a bitline and complementary bitline" includes a "flipped cores cell that

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has a flipped bitline and a flipped complementary bitline, with "multiple pairs of the global bitline and the global complementary bitline" having "core cells that are defined by alternating one's of the core cell and flipped core cell" (i.e. a rotation of the core cell about its axes and coupling pairs of core cells, Figs. 2A, 3B, to achieve a balance in the bitline capacitances), as now recited in independent claims 1 and 11, in the context of the claims. Claims 2-10 are allowable as being dependent from independent claim 1.

The closest prior art uncovered during examination is:

US Patent 5,999,482 issued to Kornachuk et al: teaches a memory core design having a model word-line defining the memory core configuration.

US Patent 6,043,562 issued to Keeth: discloses a semiconductor memory with multiple layers and offset conductive levels with cross-coupled transistor pairs.

While the prior art of record discloses various arrangements of core cells including six transistor core cells having a bitline and complementary bitline for reducing capacitances and a depth of memory defined by the number of wordlines, it does not explicitly disclose the specific arrangement of elements relating to "a core cell (defined as six transistor cell, Fig. 3A) having a bitline and complementary bitline" including a "flipped cores cell that has a flipped bitline and a flipped complementary bitline, with "multiple pairs of the global bitline and the global complementary bitline" having "core cells that are defined by alternating one's of the core cell and flipped core cell", as now recited in independent claims

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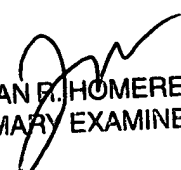
1 and 11. (See: Figs. 2A-3A) This feature renders the claimed invention non-obvious over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Ferris whose telephone number is 571-272-3778 and whose normal working hours are 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-3700. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jean Homere can be reached at 571-272-3780. The Official Fax Number is: (703) 872-9306

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JEAN F. HOMERE
PRIMARY EXAMINER